

MINUTES
PARKS & TREE COMMISSION
April 14, 2026

1. Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 4:05pm in the City Hall Conference Room.
2. Roll Call:
Present: Chair Matthew Bradley, Vicechair Bunny LaDuke, Councilmember Lori Steele, Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis and City Manager Justin Lakamper.
Excused: Commissioner Corey Redder
3. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Nieuwenhuis, seconded by Bradley, to accept and place on file the Parks & Trees Meeting Minutes of the 03/10/2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
4. Public Comment: None.
5. Chairman's Report: None.
6. Park Reports:
General Update – Bob Nieuwenhuis
Bob reported that the flowers are about a month out, and the parks are being mowed now.
Sherwood Park Maintenance Report –
Lori reported the park was muddy and the water is high. There is a tree in the river by the Trestle Bridge.
Pell Park Maintenance Report –
Matthew reported the park looks good.
Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley
Matthew reported that some yellow flowers are popping up and the ferns are beginning to grow.
Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory Redder
Bob reported the park up top is a mess. The new playground equipment will be installed soon.
Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Bob Nieuwenhuis and Lori Steele
Lori stated that the park is soggy in spots. Bob stated the leaves have been blown out.
Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny LaDuke
Bunny shared that the dock is in and looks good.
Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory Redder
Matthew reported that some sections of the boardwalk are closed due to the high level of the river.
7. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Bunny discussed the upcoming Arbor Day event, sharing that Mary File her family will be honored, Mayor Keeler will read a proclamation, and the red bud seedlings are ready to be handed out. She would like Parks & Trees members to hand out the seedlings, and asked Matthew to welcome event attendees on their behalf. She has a PowerPoint prepared for the event about red bud trees.
8. Staff Comments: Justin discussed the playground equipment for Cook park, sharing that the City had gotten some grant money that allows us to buy bigger pieces. Bunny asked about the playground equipment Plainwell had gotten from Cooper. Bob shared that because it was used, it all has big chunks of concrete on it that needs to be removed before it can be installed anywhere.
9. Commissioners' Comments: None.
10. Adjournment:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Nieuwenhuis, to adjourn the meeting at 4:23pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by JoAnn Leonard